

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3495

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMCONSUL SONGKHLA

CINCPAC HONOLULU

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR CB TH

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT COMMENTS ON VISIT TO THAILAND OF
CAMBODIAN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

REF: BANGKOK 22783 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON
CAMBODIA AT PRESS CONFERENCE HELD BY PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT
OCT 30. END SUMMARY.

1. PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT COMMENTED AT SOME LENGTH AT
PRESS CONFERENCE OCT 30 ON CURRENT VISIT TO THAILAND OF
CAMBODIAN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER IENG SARY (REFTEL). KHUKRIT'S
Q AND A WITH PRESS AS FOLLOWS:

QTE REPORTER: WHEN WILL WE SEND A THAI AMBASSADOR TO
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UAMPUCHEA?

KHUKRIT: IT DEPENDS ON EVERYTHING BEING IN READINESS. I FEEL THAT KAMPUCHEA MIGHT NOT BE READY YET FOR A DIPLOMATIC MISSION TO BE SET UP THERE. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT CAN COME AND SET UP A DIPLOMATIC MISSION HERE ANY TIME, BECAUSE EVERYTHING IS READY HERE, INCLUDING AN EMBASSY. IT ONLY DEPENDS ON TALKS OVER DETAILS TO BE HELD LATER. EVERYTHING SHOULD BE EASY IN THE FUTURE, AND NO PROBLEMS AT ALL WILL MOST PROBABLY BE FACED.

REPORTER: WHAT FORMS OF AID DID YOU OFFER TO KAMPUCHEA?

KHUKRIT: VICE PRIME MINISTER IENG SARY SAID THAT IT IS THE POLICY OF HIS COUNTRY TO BE AS SELF-RELIANT AS POSSIBLE. THEREFORE, I ONLY SAID THAT SHOULD THERE BE ANYTHING IN ANY WAY OR IN ANY FORM WE COULD DO TO HELP IT BECOME AS SELF-RELIANT AS POSSIBLE, WE ARE READY TO GIVE THAT FORM OF AID. SHOULD THERE BE OBSTACLES OR DIFFICULTIES IN ANY WAY WE ARE READY TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO OVERCOME THEM.

REPORTER: DID HE REQUEST THAT KAMPUCHEA REFUGEES RETURN TO THEIR HOMELAND?

KHUKRIT: I DON'T KNOW. HE MIGHT HAVE DISCUSSED THAT DURING TALKS HE HAD WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER. HE DID NOT MENTION THE SUBJECT TO ME, BECAUSE IT HAS TO BE NELOTIATED AT THE LEVEL OF OFFICIALS.

REPORTER: DO YOU FEEL THAT THIS VISIT TO THAILAND OF THE KAMPUCHEA DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND HIS PARTY HAS BEEN A SUCCESS?

KHUKRIT: EXCELLENT RESULTS HAVE BEEN OBTAINED. I AM OVERJOYED AT THE LEADER OF THIS NEIGHBORING COUNTRY HAVING COME HERE ALREADY. A FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE ISSUED VERY SHORTLY OF THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. END QTE.

2. COMMENT: KHUKRIT HAS NOT RPT NOT BEEN DEEPLY INVOLVED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN MOST ASPECTS OF DISCUSSIONS WITH IENG SARY, WHICH ARE BEING CONDUCTED BY MFA. HIS COMMENTS ARE, TO SOME EXTENT, ONLY IN PASSING, BUT THEY CLEARLY UNDERLINE IMPORTANCE RTG ATTACHES TO NORMALIZATION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CAMBODIA.
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